



## News in Brief

### Guam Relief Fund Established

The cleanup on Guam from the devastating effects of Super Typhoon Pongsona continues (see *FAA Intercom* coverage in the January 2003 issue). FAA facilities and the island itself are slowly being restored to normal.

To help victims in the recovery, Western-Pacific Region's credit union has established a fund to which FAA employees may contribute. Donations marked for "NAPA Guam Relief Fund, Account # 87270" may be sent to: FAA First Federal Credit Union, 15000 Aviation Blvd., Lawndale, CA 90261.

Telephone donations may be made using VISA, MasterCard or American Express by calling (800) 338-0755. For more information, contact Al Kaulia, NAPA chair, at (202) 267-7237, or e-mail him at [akaulia@faa.gov](mailto:akaulia@faa.gov).

### Women's Group Offers CFI Certification Class

Women in Aviation, International will offer its first flight instructor refresher clinic at its annual conference March 20-22 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Flight instructors will be able to renew their CFI certificate up to three months in advance. The class is open to all flight instructors who need to renew their certificates and is not limited to WAI members or conference attendees.



The clinic is co-sponsored by AOPA *Flight Training* magazine and presented by the AOPA Air Safety Foundation.

For more information, contact WAI at (386) 226-7996, or access the Web site at [www.wiai.org](http://www.wiai.org).

### Agency Videos Honored

Two agency video productions are entered as finalists in the annual Telly awards.

The two videos are "Mediation: Working Together," produced in cooperation with the William J. Hughes Technical Center's Office of Civil Rights, with the assistance of the Tech Center Counsel's office and the FAA Dispute Resolution Specialist's staff at Headquarters; and "NEXCOM: System Demonstration One," which made its debut at the 2002 ATCA convention and demonstrates the benefits of digital radio communications for controlling air traffic.

The Telly Awards program was founded in 1980 to recognize outstanding non-network, cable commercials, film, and video productions. It has become one of the most sought-after awards in the TV, commercial, and video industry.

Nearly 11,000 entries were received for the Telly Awards competition last year. Of that number only 7-10 percent are chosen as winners, and of the winners, only 14-18 percent are chosen as finalists.

The two videos are the sixth and seventh Telly Award recipients produced by the Tech Center's Advanced Imaging Division.



### NEXCOM Contracts Awarded

The FAA awarded \$16 million and \$21 million contracts to ITT Industries and Harris Corp., respectively, for the initial phase of the Next Generation Air/Ground Communications System (NEXCOM).

NEXCOM will make more efficient use of the available radio frequency spectrum, which is facing a shortage of frequencies that could limit aviation growth in less than a decade. By integrating datalink with digital voice technology, less of the frequency spectrum is used. NEXCOM also will accommodate additional air traffic control sectors and new runways.

Harris and ITT will create the system architecture, equipment specifications, and supporting technical documents for the project. They also will develop engineering design models of NEXCOM ground network systems and use them to demonstrate NEXCOM capabilities.

### Civil Reserve Air Fleet Activated

The Department of Defense has turned to the airline industry for help in airlifting troops and cargo to the Middle East in anticipation of a possible war with Iraq.

Under the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) agreement with the DOD, commercial airlines are obligated to move passengers and cargo when DOD airlift requirements exceed the capability of U.S. military aircraft. In return, the DOD awards airlines participating in CRAF with peacetime airlift contracts.

The DOD activated 47 passenger aircraft. If required, the DOD can activate as many as 31 wide-body cargo aircraft under the first stage.

Stage II allows the DOD to use commercial aircraft for major regional contingencies, while Stage III would be used for periods of national mobilization. CRAF air carriers continue to operate and maintain the aircraft with their resources, but carry out missions assigned by the DOD.